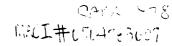
BELLE GROVE SQUARE

WEST GREEN STREET

The Belle Grove Square area consists of a grassy lot consisting of about 24,000 square feet donated by the Matthews family and the houses which front it, with two churches, on West Green Street, Bond Street and Park Avenue in Westminster. The central plot labelled "Park" on the 1876 plat of the City, and the 29 lots which surround it are all part of the area known as "George W. Matthews Addition to Westminster".

The lots contain buildings that reflect architectural developments in Westminster during the past century. Few houses today standing possess the same appearance when the square was laid out, except possibly number 11 Park Avenue. Thus it is possible to see progression in taste and fashion, from the very simple German Church Parsonage on Bond Street to much more elaborate pile such as that at the corner of Green Street and Bond Street, or through 7 Park Avenue, to the large and still traditional pair of houses 30 and 34 West Green Street.

The area called Park was recently relandscaped for the Bicentennial in 1976, and now consists of a central circular fountain with brick walk area around and with radiating paths off in all directions. The lot is shaded by a massive ash and mapel trees some of which are doubtless survivors of the original square, some of which were recently replanted.



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME	
HISTORIC D. 11 C. C.	
Belle Grove Square	
AND/OR COMMON	
2 LOCATION	-
STREET & NUMBER	
West Green Street	
CITY. TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Westminster VICINITY OF 7	
STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY	
Maryland Carroll	
3 CLASSIFICATION	
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT U	SE
DISTRICT X_PUBLICOCCUPIEDAGRICULTUREMU	SEUM
BUILDING(S)PRIVATEXUNOCCUPIEDCOMMERCIAL XPA	RK
STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDUCATIONALPR	VATE RESIDENCE
XSITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENTERTAINMENT _RE	LIGIOU S
_OBJECTIN PROCESS _XYES: RESTRICTEDGOVERNMENTSC	IENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDEREDYES: UNRESTRICTEDINDUSTRIALTR.	ANSPORTATION
_NOMILITARYOT	HER
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY	
NAME City of Marketine and Malaybaya # 1000	
City of Westminster Telephone #: 848-9	000
City Hall	
CITY. TOWN STATE , Zip	code
Westminster vicinity of Maryland _21157	
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION Liber #: 48	
courthouse. Folio #: 161	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building	
STREET & NUMBER	
Center Street	
CITY. TOWN STATE	
CITY. TOWN STATE Westminster Maryland	
Westminster Westminster Westminster Maryland REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
CITY. TOWN STATE Westminster Maryland	
Westminster Westminster Westminster Westminster Bicentennial Celebration	
Westminster Westminster Westminster Westminster Bicentennial Celebration DATE October 1964 Maryland FILLE Westminster Bicentennial Celebration	
Westminster Westminster Westminster Westminster Westminster Bicentennial Celebration DATE October 1964 DEPOSITORY FOR	
Westminster Westminster Westminster Westminster Bicentennial Celebration October 1964 DEPOSITORY FOR	

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

_GOOD

__UNEXPOSED

RUINS

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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Some photographs exist showing the park a generation or two ago revealing that, while in a less pristine condition than it is now, it has always maintained a similar open woodsy atmosphere, and has been a display case for several eras of Maryland architecture, domestic and religious.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 X 1800-1899 X 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	XCOMMUNITY PLANNING —CONSERVATION —ECONOMICS —EDUCATION —ENGINEERING —EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT —INDUSTRY —INVENTION	X_LANOSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW _LITERATURE _MILITARY _MUSIC _PHILOSOPHY _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)	
SPECIFIC DATES 1877; 1976 BUILDER/ARCHITECT					

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As indicated in the answer to question 7, one clear significance of Belle Grove Square is as a showcase for local building patterns of several generations. All the most common and important styles at present, from a simple three-bay two-story single pitched roof rowhouse to a large - towered wide-porched piles of the early 20th century. Further, the square is important as a pleasant rare piece of greenery in the City.

Its also interesting to think of the whole as a local variation of the Grosvenor-style of development that characterized other cities at a broad. George W. Matthews and wife owned this tract of land buying it from the Boyles in 1866 for \$3000. (Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 409). Matthews laid out the 30 lots, nearly all of which front the central square, and began selling them off to builders, reserving lot no. 27 for himself. Then, on March 5, 1877 he appeared before the City Council and "voluntarily tended them a lot of ground near the Reformed Church to be used with the public square and to be under the control and management of the Corporation of Westminster." (Minuted of Westminster City Council.) Various issues were discussed such as whether or not a fence should be erected, before the deed was finally presented from Matthews and wife to the Council on May 7, 1877: "the Council was much impressed by the manner in which the deed was presented, which was received by the president of the Council in name of the people and in motion of thanks duly moved and seconded and carried unanimously thanking Squire Matthews and wife for their noble gift". the City still owns the lot, and it is still open for the use of citizens. (A note that here. as elsewhere, the central grassy area was originally thought to be used only for the citizens who owned lots fronting it, but was later turned open to all.) The lot was recently given a sprucing-up as part of the Westminster's observance of the United States Bicentennial in 1976, and act carried out under the aegis of the City by a local garden club.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE	ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
	OMINATED PROPERTY	
VERBAL BOU	JNDARY DESCRIPTION	•
	Being that half acre site labe t recorded among the Real Estate and Mo nty in Book 3, Page 55.	
LIST A	LL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAF	PPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	COUNTY	
STATE	COUNTY	
11 FORM PI	REPARED BY Christopher Weeks, Consultant	August, 1977
ORGANIZATION	Westminster Historical Sites Survey	DATE
STREET & NUMBE		TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	c/o City Hall - Public Works Departme Westminster	state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

CARK OK 479
Belle Grove Square
Westmin, te

170

116%

P.99-101





CARR-478

CLX

169

(bihind tree)



(CARR-487 circled in blue inK)